

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700113

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The proposed project is to provide enhanced law enforcement capabilities and educational outreach to two regionally significant off-road vehicle use areas. South Cow Mountain is the motorized portion of the Cow Mountain Recreation Area and is an outstanding area for motorized recreation that has become even more important since the closure of the Clear Creek Off-Road Vehicle Area. Knoxville Recreation Area is the other motorized recreation area to be served by this project.

The South Cow Mountain Recreation Area is comprised of about 23,000 acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ukiah Field Office. The South Cow Mountain Recreation Area was established in 1976 and is one of the oldest federally managed OHV riding areas in the nation. Congress recognized the importance of providing and sustaining off-road vehicle recreation by establishing the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area in 2006 (Public Law 109-362, Oct. 17, 2006). As a result of the congressional action and closure of Clear Creek, there has been a three-fold increase in the amount activity and OHV use. Within the last 12-15 months, requests for special event permits have doubled, with the average number of registered participants also doubling, now at 400 to 500 entrants. Education and public outreach are performed by patrol staff, office staff and the website.

The Knoxville Recreation Area is situated in a remote area of the northern corner of Napa County, the southeast corner of Lake County, and the northeast corner of Yolo County. The recreation area is situated about 15 miles from the community of Lower Lake, and about 60 miles from Ukiah. The Knoxville Recreation Area is within a two to three hour drive of both Sacramento and the Bay Area, and makes up one of the largest blocks of public land available for year-around off-highway vehicle use in the region.

These are a high priority patrol and enforcement areas due to their close proximity to the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento metropolitan areas and the high visitation that is the result. Through this project, law enforcement officers will provide a presence which will act as a deterrent for vandalism and other illegal activities that result in resource damage. They will provide varying day and night patrols, perform field checks for spark arresters, current registration, sound/noise level compliance checks, trespass, alcohol-related incidents, illegal shooting, fireworks, protection of natural resources, and illegal wood cutting.

Outreach will be greatly improved as a direct result of this project. Law enforcement officers will be more available for direct contact with riders and other visitors to answer questions regarding allowable uses for the BLM lands, condition of roads and trails, location and availability of general, repair, and towing services and to assist with emergency and search and rescue incidents. Information is provided to the public on the office webpage with general information about the areas and maps that can be downloaded for printing at home. The website makes sound checks available by appointment and provides information on volunteer days/events. Outreach from this project will allow enhanced coordination with adjacent private landowners, patrol coordination with county sheriff's departments, participating in high school and college career fairs, as well as sponsoring, hosting, and staffing booths at local and county fairs.

Unique circumstances for this area center are the close proximity to medium sized communities to the areas. Ukiah is adjacent to the west boundary and Lakeport is adjacent to the east boundary of South Cow Mountain. Clearlake is very close to the north boundary of Knoxville. Added to that are two major metropolitan areas within a few hours' drive of both OHV areas and nothing comparable any closer to them. With the recent closure of the Clear Creek OHV Area visitation levels have tripled.

South Cow Mountain and the Knoxville Recreation Area are relatively low elevation with steep, brushy terrain. Sight visibility is very limited and trails can vary from easy to difficult with the turn of a corner. The rider has the sense of solitude on most of the trails, which makes it attractive to ride in either area from several aspects. Those qualities also make patrol and enforcement very difficult. There are no vantage points where a law enforcement officer can see what is happening on more than a short segment of trail. This situation requires more officers per square mile for equal effectiveness than in other, more open situations such as the California desert.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

South Cow Mountain provides over 100 miles of roads and trails open to OHV use. The facilities at the site include two developed day-use staging areas, two developed campgrounds, a 4x4 safety course and numerous undeveloped sites for dispersed camping and day use. The primary access road into and through South Cow Mountain is Mendo-Lake Road, a California Back Country Discovery Trail. The recreation area provides an extensive network of four-wheel drive, motorcycle, and ATV trails, ranging from easy to difficult, and allows visitors to experience the backcountry with views of snow-capped mountains, scenic vistas, and wildlife viewing. Hunting, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding are other recreational activities that are popular within the recreation area.

South Cow Mountain is 22,300 acres in size, most of which is public land. Of its 100 miles of trails, most require intermediate to advanced skill levels, though there are some beginner level trails. The Knoxville Recreation Area is 24,400 acres in size, contains about 52 miles of trails and trail skill levels vary primarily from beginner to intermediate. Developed facilities include a developed day use staging area, a developed campground, and numerous other sites for dispersed camping and day use.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

The project will allow frequency of patrols to be increased from 3 or fewer days per week to 5 or more days per week, with increases now possible during general hunting season to increase rider safety. That will be a significant increase and when added to the non-enforcement staff presence of 1 to 2 days per week. Coordination with California Department of Fish and Game wardens and the Napa County Sheriff's Department will be more effective and combined efforts will be more frequently possible.

This project will assure continued cooperatively supported radio dispatch provided through Lake County, Mendocino County, Mendocino National Forest, and CalFire, the latter providing a courtesy safety dispatch on weekends and holidays to BLM employees for response to medical emergencies, law enforcement incidents and fires. The Ukiah Field Office has no guaranteed 24 hour, 365 day dispatch with which to access CLETS or NCIC information or for officer safety purposes. With full grant funding, BLM intends to hire an additional Law Enforcement Ranger to assist with patrols.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

Intention with this grant is to fund patrols by two law enforcement officers. With full grant awarded, BLM intends to hire an additional law enforcement officer. The project would allow additional law enforcement officers to be brought in from adjacent offices and cooperating agencies to assist on holiday weekends, special events, and high use times.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700113

Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

Within South Cow Mountain, the high priority law enforcement needs include: stopping indiscriminate shooting, particularly in developed sites and along roads; stopping the high levels of vandalism at developed sites and to signs; abandoned vehicles and dumping of solid waste and hazmat; stopping organized illegal and large scale cultivation of marijuana; and barriers being pulled or circumvented so that sensitive areas are damaged on both public and private lands. The high priority law enforcement needs are the same for Knoxville Recreation Area as for South Cow Mountain, with the exception of cartel-based cultivation of marijuana. Knoxville does not have as much available water so there are fewer gardens and armed growers that go with them.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

Law enforcement provides an essential link to education and information dispersal to encourage responsible use and compliance with the regulations/rules of the OHV areas. Law enforcement officers also have the ability to legally stop and hold accountable those who are being irresponsible and damaging the facilities and natural land base that allows for OHV-based recreation. The proposed project will allow law enforcement officers to be more visible, more available, and more effective in both their roles of educators and public servants as well as enforcers when that authority is needed to correct a situation.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

Currently, BLM has an informal agreement and coordinates with Napa County Sheriff's Department for patrols, map development and updating, inventory of trails utilizing GPS Technology, and volunteer cleanup projects. Negotiations are in progress to formalize an agreement with Napa County Sheriff's Office to provide dispatch service in the Knoxville Area. Currently the Ukiah Field Office has signed MOUs, which cross delegate Rangers with state peace officer status, with Colusa, Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Yolo counties. This enables Rangers to enforce State as well as Federal laws on public lands.

Law Enforcement - Page 2

4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)

Explain

Law enforcement and non-law enforcement costs associated with events are collected in compliance with the BLM Special Recreation Permit Handbook (H-2930). Last years permitted events on South Cow Mtn. BLM collected fees for both law enforcement and non-law enforcement costs.

The purpose of cost recovery is to have individuals or groups that are clearly the beneficiary of an activity on public lands shoulder the costs associated with providing, administering, and monitoring that activity or event.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

Weekly BLM meetings are used to exchange details of ongoing projects and resource information. Staff also interact on an as needed basis. LE Rangers are involved in annual training and legal updates, are involved with statewide conference calls, attend workshops sponsored by the OHMVR Division, maintain a valid First Aid/CPR certificate.

Law Enforcement - Page 3

7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:

Law Enforcement - Page 4

10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
Operations and maintenance needs area being met via appropriated federal funding, volunteers, and OHMVR grant requests.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Ukiah Field Office
Application: Law Enforcement

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Ukiah Field Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The proposed project is to provide enhanced law enforcement capabilities and educational outreach to two regionally significant off-road vehicle use areas. South Cow Mountain is the motorized portion of the Cow Mountain Recreation Area and is an outstanding area for motorized recreation that has become even more important since the closure of the Clear Creek Off-Road Vehicle Area. Knoxville Recreation Area is the other motorized recreation area to be served by this project.</p> <p>The South Cow Mountain Recreation Area is comprised of about 23,000 acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ukiah Field Office. The South Cow Mountain Recreation Area was established in 1976 and is one of the oldest federally managed OHV riding areas in the nation. Congress recognized the importance of providing and sustaining off-road vehicle recreation by establishing the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area in 2006 (Public Law 109-362, Oct. 17, 2006). As a result of the congressional action and closure of Clear Creek, there has been a three-fold increase in the amount activity and OHV use. Within the last 12-15 months, requests for special event permits have doubled, with the average number of registered participants also doubling, now at 400 to 500 entrants. Education and public outreach are performed by patrol staff, office staff and the website.</p> <p>The Knoxville Recreation Area is situated in a remote area of the northern corner of Napa County, the southeast corner of Lake County, and the northeast corner of Yolo County. The recreation area is situated about 15 miles from the community of Lower Lake, and about 60 miles from Ukiah. The Knoxville Recreation Area is within a two to three hour drive of both Sacramento and the Bay Area, and makes up one of the largest blocks of public land available for year-around off-highway vehicle use in the region.</p> <p>These are a high priority patrol and enforcement areas due to their close proximity to the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento metropolitan areas and the high visitation that is the result. Through this project, law enforcement officers will provide a presence which will act as a deterrent for vandalism and other illegal activities that result in resource damage. They will provide varying day and night patrols, perform field checks for spark arresters, current registration, sound/noise level compliance checks, trespass, alcohol-related incidents, illegal shooting, fireworks, protection of natural resources, and illegal wood cutting.</p> <p>Outreach will be greatly improved as a direct result of this project. Law enforcement officers will be more available for direct contact with riders and other visitors to answer questions regarding allowable uses for the BLM lands, condition of roads and trails, location and availability of general, repair, and towing services and to assist with emergency and search and rescue incidents. Information is provided to the public on the office webpage with general information about the areas and maps that can be downloaded for printing at home. The website makes sound checks available by appointment and provides information on volunteer days/events. Outreach from this project will allow enhanced coordination with adjacent private landowners, patrol coordination with county sheriff's departments, participating in high school and college career fairs, as well as sponsoring, hosting, and staffing booths at local and county fairs.</p> <p>Unique circumstances for this area center are the close proximity to medium sized communities to the areas. Ukiah is adjacent to the west boundary and Lakeport is adjacent to the east boundary of South Cow Mountain. Clearlake is very close to the north boundary of Knoxville. Added to that are two major metropolitan areas within a few hours' drive of both OHV areas and nothing comparable any closer to them. With the recent closure of the Clear Creek OHV Area visitation levels have tripled.</p> <p>South Cow Mountain and the Knoxville Recreation Area are relatively low elevation with steep, brushy terrain. Sight visibility is very limited and trails can vary from easy to difficult with the turn of a corner. The rider has the sense of solitude on most of the trails, which makes it attractive to ride in either area from several aspects. Those qualities also make patrol and enforcement very difficult. There are no vantage points where a law enforcement officer can see what is happening on more than a short segment of trail. This situation requires more officers per square mile for equal effectiveness than in other, more open situations such as the California desert.</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Ukiah Field Office
Application: Law Enforcement

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Law Enforcement Officers	1043.000	45.950	HRS	23,963.00	23,963.00	47,926.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	1043.000	48.540	HRS	25,313.00	25,314.00	50,627.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : Hire third LE Ranger with full grant award.	1043.000	22.340	HRS	11,650.00	11,651.00	23,301.00
	Total for Staff				60,926.00	60,928.00	121,854.00
2	Contracts						
	Law Enforcement Assistance Notes : LE dispatch provided by Napa County Sheriff's Department for patrolling the Knoxville Recreation Area.	12.000	375.000	MOS	2,250.00	2,250.00	4,500.00
	Law Enforcement Assistance Notes : LE dispatch provided by Mendocino and Lake County Sheriff's Departments for patrol of the South Cow Mountain Recreation Area.	12.000	375.000	MOS	2,250.00	2,250.00	4,500.00
	Total for Contracts				4,500.00	4,500.00	9,000.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Safety Equipment Notes : Motorcycle riding gear: includes goggles, helmet, riding pants, riding shirt, protective pads, kidney belt, etc.	1.000	1400.000	EA	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Notes : LE Rangers patrol vehicle.	6.000	375.000	MOS	1,125.00	1,125.00	2,250.00
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	6.000	375.000	MOS	1,125.00	1,125.00	2,250.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Ukiah Field Office
Application: Law Enforcement

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Notes : LE Ranger patrol vehicle.						
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Notes : LE Ranger patrol vehicle.	6.000	375.000	MOS	1,125.00	1,125.00	2,250.00
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Notes : Patrol motorcycle repairs: tires, servicing, replacement parts, etc.	1.000	1500.000	YR	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				4,875.00	3,375.00	8,250.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
Total Program Expenses					71,701.00	68,803.00	140,504.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					71,701.00	68,803.00	140,504.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					71,701.00	68,803.00	140,504.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Ukiah Field Office
Application: Law Enforcement

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	60,926.00	60,928.00	121,854.00	
2	Contracts	4,500.00	4,500.00	9,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	4,875.00	3,375.00	8,250.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		71,701.00	68,803.00	140,504.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		71,701.00	68,803.00	140,504.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		71,701.00	68,803.00	140,504.00	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700113

ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment